



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington DC 20590

JUL 21 2014

Mr. Goran Sparrman  
Interim Director  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Suite 3800  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle, Washington 98124-4996

Re: Project Development Initiation – Center City Connector Streetcar

Dear Mr. Sparrman:

Thank you for your letter, dated March 11, 2014, requesting entry into the Project Development (PD) phase under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Small Starts program for the City of Seattle's Center City Connector Streetcar. After reviewing your initial letter, FTA requested additional information that was submitted on May 16, 2014 and June 19, 2014. At that time, FTA determined that the information provided is sufficient to enter the PD phase. Per the requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21), the following activities must be completed during PD:

- Select a locally preferred alternative;
- Have the locally preferred alternative adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan;
- Complete the environmental review process; and
- Complete the activities required to develop sufficient information for evaluation and rating under the Section 5309 criteria.

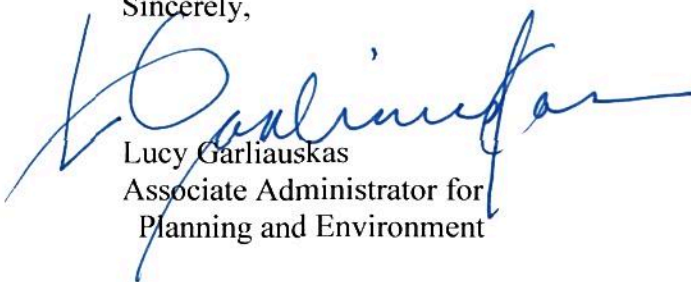
It is our understanding the City will select a locally preferred alternative (LPA) during the summer of 2014, and have it adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan in spring of 2015. If the project definition, scope or cost changes significantly during PD, then the modified LPA may need to be re-adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan before the conclusion of PD. The City of Seattle must complete the environmental review process and provide FTA with information for evaluation and rating to complete PD and become ready for a construction grant agreement.

With this entry into PD, the City of Seattle has pre-award authority to incur costs for PD activities prior to grant approval and to retain eligibility of those activities for future FTA grant assistance. PD activities include the work necessary to complete the environmental review process and as much engineering and design activities as the City of Seattle believes are

necessary to support the environmental review process. Upon completion of the environmental review process, FTA extends pre-award authority to project sponsors in PD to incur costs for as much engineering and design as necessary to develop a reasonable cost estimate and financial plan for the project, utility relocation, and real property acquisition and associated relocations. This pre-award authority does not constitute a commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for PD or any other project cost. As with all pre-award authority, relevant Federal requirements must be met prior to incurring costs in order to preserve eligibility of the costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Maurice Foushee at (202) 366-1636 or [Maurice.Foushee@dot.gov](mailto:Maurice.Foushee@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Garliauskas', is written over the typed name and title.

Lucy Garliauskas  
Associate Administrator for  
Planning and Environment

cc: Richard Krochalis, Regional Administrator